

## The Sun.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 1880.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending Jan. 24, 1880, was:

Monday	122,270	Tuesday	119,165
Wednesday	117,181	Thursday	119,469
Friday	117,405	Saturday	122,140
Total for the week.....600,481			

## The Democrats of New York—Their Situation and Prospects.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Evening Express*, says:

"The division in the Democracy of this State was caused by Mr. Tilden's misfortune, who forced the nomination of his candidate for Governor on the party in spite of the earnest and strenuous efforts of those of the Democratic party who were in the majority. For the only division there is in the Democratic party, Mr. Tilden is solely responsible. The *Express* Democrats who voted against Tilden last fall are earnestly seeking for national harmony and success, and they oppose Mr. Tilden, then, and oppose him still, because he means division and would insure defeat."

Is not this a little like the old story of the juror who complained that eleven of his fellow-obstinate refused to agree to a verdict? However numerous the KELLY men in this State may be, it is indisputable that the TILDEN men are much more numerous. Before the election Mr. KELLY boasted that he would beat Gov. ROBINSON by fifty thousand majority, but the election showed his arithmetic to be sadly out of joint.

We, for our part, can understand only one way in which a party can be successful; and that is for the majority to rule, in making nominations as in everything else. If the KELLY branch of the party can dictate the rejection of one candidate, against the will of the majority, then another branch of the party can dictate the rejection of another candidate, against the will of the majority, until every available candidate shall have been successively shut off from a nomination. So if a minority of the party can dictate the rejection of one particular candidate, it may logically say that neither of two, or no one of seven shall be nominated. It gives to the minority the power which rightfully belongs to the majority. The power to reject is in principle, and often in practice, the power to select.

It seems to us ridiculous for the KELLY men, who have been demonstrated to be in the minority, to expect the TILDEN men, who have been proved to be largely in the majority, to submit to their dictation and to fall submissively into the ranks in the rear and to follow their leader, even to victory. Perhaps they will do it, we have no objection; but it would be a sign that the millennium is near at hand.

We should like to see SANFORD E. CHURCH President of the United States. We believe he would make a pure and able Administration. We believe that if Judge CHURCH and his friends and Mr. TILDEN and his friends were in harmony, Judge CHURCH could carry this State against any Republican candidate who could be named. So, probably, might Mr. TILDEN carry the State if he were in harmony with Judge CHURCH. But at the same time we know they are not in harmony; and while we think this is wholly Mr. TILDEN's fault, we none the less recognize the fact. He is a weak and foolish politician who fares not at all times to look upon the truth, as it exists; and this is the truth. Of course we have no means of knowing what Mr. TILDEN will do, who are not possessed by every one else. We presume he will disclaim any intention to do anything like what we have hinted at. But if he were to protest as much as HORATIO SEYMOUR protests that he is not a candidate for President, we should nevertheless expect to see any candidate for President nominated without his earnest good will sadly in the minority when the vote of New York comes to be counted.

We may misjudge Mr. TILDEN. We may wholly mistake him. It may be a great injustice to him to place him in this particular on a level with Mr. KELLY and Mr. FIELD; but in our opinion if any Democrats expect to carry the State of New York for a candidate who is not Mr. TILDEN's candidate, they should be christened anew and be known hereafter as *The Innocents*.

## More Light Wanted.

Mr. SPARKS, Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, carried a resolution through the House a few days ago directing the Secretary of War to report the number, rank, names, and annual pay of officers of the army on the retired list, the total amount paid to each retired officer, and the aggregate amount paid to retired officers since the retired list was created.

A proper answer to this inquiry will show what sum of money has been paid to each retired officer of the army, and the total expenditure on this account. That information in a condensed form, so as to be easily understood, has long been wanted to enable the taxpayer to see how much of the revenue has been and is still appropriated to a profligate class who render no service.

But Mr. SPARKS can supplement this inquiry by another, calling for all the payments, allowances, emoluments, and extras of every kind paid to officers on the active list since the close of the civil war, designating in detail the items, and the authority of law under which they were paid. The country is entitled to know exactly what those officers cost, both in regular and in extra pay.

It will be said, perhaps, that an answer may be obtained from existing public documents. That may or may not be true, but it is sufficient to know that it is not to be obtained. If at all, without long and laborious research through a multitude of official papers, and then only by an expert, skilled in the methods practiced by the War Department in making allowances.

Tens of thousands of useless documents are published by Congress, at an expense of about five thousand dollars a day the year round, to keep up the Government printing office and the Ring of Jobbers that thrive by this glaring profligacy. A very large proportion of these publications go either to the junk shops or to traders about Washington. This shameful system goes on almost without check, and with only weak opposition, because of a venal combination, in which both parties are represented.

But when an attempt is made to get at the bottom facts of expenditure in the army and to uncover the whole system of favoritism by which the annual budget is bartered, some convenient friend in the House is always shocked at the cost to be incurred for printing and compiling valuable information that every taxpayer should possess, and every legislator should have at hand before voting on an army bill.

Therefore Mr. SPARKS is in a position to render a public service by requiring such a statement as we have suggested to be prepared, in order that the cost of officers on the active list, dating with the close of the rebellion, may stand side by side with that of the retired list. One is quite as desirable as the other, and both are necessary for

a perfect knowledge of the charge on the Treasury for running the military machine outside of the rank and file.

## The New Afghan Pretenders.

At first sight it was supposed that the putting forward of MOOSA Khan, the eldest son of YAKOOB, as a claimant of the Afghan throne, might have some political importance. Not that MAHMOUD JAS could expect to kindle among the tribes of the interior—the Duranis, the Ghilzais, and the Kohistanis—an uprising at all comparable with that which recently miscarried. But the mother of MOOSA Khan was a princess of the Mohmands, the most powerful and warlike of the hill tribes commanding the passes to India, and with their assistance it was thought that British communications could be cut. These calculations were partly justified. No sooner had the son of their princess escaped from Kabul than the Mohmands rose in force. They had waited too long, and they were decisively beaten by the English columns. This overthrow of the Mohmand power, which has always been regarded as the most formidable along the border, may be said to dispose of MOOSA Khan's pretensions to occupy his father's throne.

The pretended filial, however, of SHER AH's nephew, ABDUL RAHMAN Khan, from Tashkent, and his appearance at Balkh, are events that bode some trouble to the English army of occupation. His title to the Afghan throne is little, if at all, weaker than YAKOOB Khan's; he possesses, on various grounds, commanding influence in the provinces north of the Hindoo Kooch; while his almost regal treatment at Russian headquarters during the past ten years suggests that Gen. KAUFMANN's hand may be detected in this movement. The story of the Afghan pretender, since he first attracted notice some fifteen years ago, may be read with interest in view of the existing complications in Central Asia.

It will have been observed that all the competitors for the place vacated by YAKOOB Khan belong to the latter's family. We hear of no claims put forward by the Ghilzais, although there are said to be descendants living of the chief Mir VAIS, who, in 1709, snatched Candahar from the Persians, and first in modern times taught the Afghans that they had a national dignity and destiny. Neither has anything been seen during the present crisis of the second Afghan dynasty, founded in 1747 by AHMED Khan, the last of the Surruys branch of the great clan of the Abdalis located in and about Herat. It was AHMED who assumed the title Durr-i-Duran (mountain Pearl of the Age), on which account the Abdali clan have since been known as the Duranis. It was one of his successors who was displaced by DOST MOHAMMED, the head of the Barakzays branch of the same dominant tribe. A representative of the Sudusei line is now living in British India, but there is no reason to suppose that he could command a following anywhere except in Herat, which has always been well disposed to the older branch of the Duranis.

ABDUL RAHMAN, from of course, is a grandson of DOST MOHAMMED, and may well be regarded by his countrymen as the rightful exponent of the great Barakzaye house which is credited with the triumph over ELPHINSTONE in 1841, and with maintaining the independence of Afghanistan for the past forty years.

After the death of DOST MOHAMMED in 1863, SHER AH's claim to the succession was disputed by his brothers, and after much indecisive fighting he was routed at Khatlat-Ghizais, and abandoned by most of his adherents. His brother AFZUL was thereupon formally recognized by Lord LAURENCE as Amier of Cabul and Candahar in a very gracious letter dated February, 1867. Within the twelvemonth AFZUL died, and soon after SHER AH recovered his dominions, chiefly through the abilities of his son, YAKOOB Khan. Then it was that AFZUL's son, ABDUL RAHMAN, was compelled to find a place of refuge within Russian territory. His nephew's escape was a subject of much perturbation to SHER AH on account of the hold ABDUL RAHMAN had secured on the people of Afghan Turkistan, both by marriage with a Badakshi Princess and also through his residence among them as Governor. His apprehensions were aggravated when he saw the Afghan fugitive surrounded by the highest honors by Gen. KAUFMANN, and supplied with a magnificent allowance by the Russian Government.

According to SCHUYLER, who visited Tashkent in 1874, ABDUL RAHMAN Khan, besides receiving an annual stipend of twenty-five thousand roubles, was considered to be in the Russian service, and held a rank which, though the American visitor does not define it, could not, in view of the emoluments, be other than one of the highest. Not content, however, with this pay, he had just then petitioned Gen. KAUFMANN for 100,000 roubles, with which he proposed to assert his right to the throne and put down SHER AH. The request was refused, but SCHUYLER tells us that the Afghan Prince was living thriftily and was likely to soon amass the funds required for his own salvation.

It has for some time been believed that in case England should assume a dominant position at Cabul, ABDUL RAHMAN might be put forward as a claimant for sovereignty in the principalities lying between the Oxus and Hindoo Kooch. We may note here that Gen. KAUFMANN, to whom the Afghan boundary question was referred by the Russian Foreign Office, decided that Balkh, Badakshan, and Hakkhan did not belong to Afghanistan, but were either independent or feudatory to Bokhara. It cannot be denied that Balkh, at all events, has belonged by turns during the past half century to the Amirs of Bokhara, to the Khan of Kunjar, and to the Amier of Cabul. The latter's conquest was effected in 1838 by an Afghan army with DOST MOHAMMED's son, and, curiously enough, an American adventurer, Gen. HARRIS, at its head. It was this American, by the way, who settled a question even now much discussed by those ignorant of his performance, whether artillery could be carried through the passes of the Hindoo Kooch. In an account of his remarkable expedition published at Philadelphia in 1842, Gen. HARRIS describes his taking a corps of the Afghan army with twenty-six pieces of artillery through the Bamian Pass to Balkh, and back again to Cabul.

It is that, that such an instrument as ABDUL RAHMAN's hold in reserve doubtless counted for something in bringing SHER AH into friendly relations with Russia. Gen. KAUFMANN had it in his power to force on that unlucky monarch the alternative of alliance or a formidable insurrection in his own States. In that case a threat seems to have sufficed, and up to the present time it has been unnecessary for Russia to play this trump card. Just now, however, the alleged escape of the Afghan Prince may be turned to exceptional account. The latter's relative, Mr. BABA Khan, has made himself master of Badakshan, and probably with the assistance of the whole district north of the Hindoo Kooch could be held against the English until spring, when Russian troops might not be far distant. It is worth remembering, in connection with this move-

ment, that Capt. BYRON'S recent survey has proved the Oxus to be navigable as high up as the frontier of Badakshan, and that a steam flotilla is already in process of construction for the navigation of that river. On the whole, we may be sure that ABDUL RAHMAN represents an appreciable force in Afghan politics. Otherwise the Russian Government would not have offered such elaborate explanations of his reception to the English Government in the first instance, nor would they have granted him an allowance which by this time must have yielded a quarter of a million of roubles.

## Taking Up Literature as a Business.

Several young men have written to us to ask for practical suggestions as to the proper course for them to pursue in order to fit themselves to make a living by writing for newspapers and other periodicals. What THE SUN said recently of the advantages of literature as a business or profession has taken root in their minds, and they would enroll themselves among those who are gaining their livelihood by literary labor.

Of these letters the following is a sample: "I have always had the idea that some such of the difficulties was needed by even a penny scholar, and never having felt that I had anything to say that people in general would hear, have never attempted to get a hearing."

These letters on "Literature as a Business" have raised a hope that there may be some chance for one who is willing to be a mere plodder, in newspaper work, and have determined to try it, can I find how to begin? "I am what a novelist would call 'a young man.' I have not 'dramatic abilities in journalism' or anything else, so far as discovered, but I have the average quality of brain, and perhaps more than the average quality of pen, and I am willing to be a plodder, and have never had any success in anything but the shallow, although some have flattered me into believing it broad. I have made a more or less conspicuous failure of my outward life hitherto."

Know nothing of the requirements of or qualifications for newspaper work. I have sometimes thought I could write better articles than some I have seen in so-called first-class journals. This may be a delusion which will not realize itself, I have met in society and business literate men who did not seem unaccountably beyond my own intellectual stature. This may have been appearance only, and a serious mistake may have disclosed a giant.

"I have lived much in the world, in business and society. I think I know men, their minds, manners, and morals. I have a pretty thorough knowledge of classical English literature and of the leading minds in the literature of other modern languages, Latin and Greek. I am not 'not enough of myself.' I will only add that I have employment that affords me a so-called support, and leaves me more leisure than I can employ to my pecuniary needs."

Perhaps our young friend is right in thinking he could do better work than he sometimes does in "so-called first-class journals." A great deal of stuff is printed which is very worthless. Writers are occasionally so pleased with the sound of the words they write that they forget to inquire whether they convey any substance of thought; and, indeed, it is quite possible for one trained to the business of writing to cover a column with connected sentences which may be read easily, but which lead to nothing and make no point.

Unquestionably a man may be taught to write with even elegance, though he possess little intellectual ability; but unless he has some thing to say, he will not be able to do so long time, his pen produces will be of no account. There are some waning literary reputations nowadays which were built up when the public, less critical and less accustomed to substantial literary food, looked on the mere knack of writing as something mysterious and indicative of extraordinary talent. There is a much lower estimate than formerly put upon mere pretty work given out by men of fastidious tastes, perhaps, but poor intellectual equipment.

We are not surprised, therefore, that when our correspondent measures himself with some of the men who parade as literary characters, he has doubts of their superiority over him. Perhaps if he read what they wrote with a thorough knowledge of the subjects they handled, and an understanding of the machinery of literary composition, his doubts would much increase. But it is not they, or such as they, who are doing the thorough and valuable work of literature in these days. Literature is too serious a business to those who are patiently laboring at it for them to spend time in gossiping about what they are doing; and they do not care for the flattery of society, and are not fond of talking shop to indicate their trade.

At once dismissing the notion that the mere ability to write with facility is any evidence of superior talent, and that the writer will receive a sure and substantial reward, our correspondent and all who, like him, wish to learn the business of literature, have got to go to work to fill the fountain from which they draw their ideas; to enrich and discipline their minds. It is true enough that the faculty of expression in writing is not given to all men in an equal degree; but when a man's ideas are clear, and he knows exactly what he wants to say, he can put down his thoughts and impressions in writing. The volunteer correspondent of THE SUN shows that, if there was no other evidence. And it is a good way to test the order and clearness of your ideas, to try to write them out. If you can't make them clear in your mind, you can't make a letter such as that our friend writes us, you have much to do before you are through with your literary apprenticeship.

What, however, makes the business of literature so much more certain in its remuneration nowadays than formerly, is the multiplication of newspapers and their increasing demand for many varieties of literary work. They give employment which is steady, and compared with the pay of other business, the salaries they offer are good. Thousands of capable men, young and old, find in their service permanent occupation. But whoever seeks to enter that sphere of labor must understand that newspapers can have no sympathy or toleration for the models of literary art which have been talked from men who have aspired to be literary. He must work steadily, as industriously, and as punctually as if he was the teller in a bank or the salesman in a dry goods store; and he will have no time to coddle his moods and wait for the divine affluents of which our friend speaks.

Many different kinds of talent are available in a large newspaper, some of whose work is not strictly literary, but requires pains-taking accuracy and careful industry rather than facility with the pen. But there is no employment there to which an apprenticeship does not need to be served; and portions of the labor can be done only by men with a special aptitude for it which only here and there is displayed.

Therefore, to those who wish to learn the business of literature as practised in newspapers, we can only advise actual trial in one whenever they may get the chance. But they must remember that they bring their inexperience in competition with trained skill, and that while a newspaper may be a school of what is called journalism, the pupils must pick up their knowledge of the art by observation and practice rather than actual tuition.

Literature as a business is open to all thoroughly educated and intelligent men, unquestionably; but as a successful and very profitable business it can only be pursued by a picked number of them, like any other business or profession. And when you come to great writers, masters of the

grand style and owners of wise thoughts, God must make them now as he always has done in the past.

## The Deluge in American Tradition.

One result of the special attention now given to American archeology is the careful scrutiny applied to the legends of a deluge believed to have been current among our native races. Not a few of these myths, if loosely must be confined to the category of pious frauds, but some are held to be genuine, and the curious point about the latter is that they bear traces of importation from Asia, apparently through the Buddhist monks, who, according to Chinese annals, penetrated as far as Mexico in the fifth century of the Christian era.

It is significant, for instance, that there was no well authenticated flood tradition among the Peruvians, and that the faint and distorted outline of the legend discovered in Central America becomes filled out and emphasized as we go north, until, in the table land of Mexico, it exhibits a surprising degree of similarity to the Semitic story. Thus, in Nicaragua, soon after the conquest, some of the Indians examined, at the instance of the Spanish Governor, as to the tenets of their faith, affirmed that before the present race existed the world was destroyed by water, and all became sea. They had never heard, however, that any individuals had saved themselves in a canoe, or by any other way, and supposed the world to have been reseeded by a fresh creation. On the other hand, in the table land of Mexico, it exhibits a surprising degree of similarity to the Semitic story.

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warnings of the law of God as he reads it. But all of these means failing, he does not hesitate to resort to the pains and penalties of earthly statutes, and he castigates those who offend against his judgment of what is proper conduct with language bitter in invective and sharp in sarcasm.

What is now disturbing the soul and arousing the wrath of the Norwichean? Certain selectmen of his town, members, like himself, of the Congregational Church, recommended that a license to sell intoxicating liquors be granted to the keepers of two houses said to be of notorious character. Mr. BACON, at a public meeting last Monday, denounced these town officers in language of extraordinary violence. His speech was two hours in length, and so full of bitter personality and fierce invective that his hearers enjoyed it like a play. But what is most remarkable, a newspaper having published a stenographic report of the minister's speech, we are told that the publisher is to be prosecuted for sending obscene matter through the mails! "It is complained that this address is very immoral in its language," says the reporter of the *Times*. The words of a Congregational minister unfit for publication because they are offensive to decency!

But Mr. BACON has his own complaint against the newspaper publisher of his speech. He filed its title page in Washington under the Copyright law, and has instructed his attorneys to bring suit against the editor and publisher for infringement. Yet what was Mr. BACON's purpose in talking in public for two hours? Was it not to stir up the indignation of the citizens of Norwiche against the selectmen he so fiercely assailed? The wider the publicity his speech gets the better for him, provided it is correctly and fully reported. He surely cannot expect to make money by printing it himself in a pamphlet; and if he wishes to confine its publication to that form in order that he may modify his spoken words, he displays a desire to deceive the readers of his speech. He actually said, he made a speech at a mass meeting, and the stenographer had a right to take it down and the editor to print it. Not only that; by so doing they vastly extended Mr. BACON's audience, and deserved his thanks instead of his threats of a suit for damages for such a display of enterprise.

The newspaper publication, against whose accuracy we hear no complaints made, cannot fail to do good, for it shows the temper of Mr. BACON's mind at the time he made his speech, and enables those who did not hear it to find out exactly what were the arguments and other influences he brought to bear on those within the range of his voice. "It is thought," says the reporter of the *Times*, "that Mr. BACON was more vituperative, than more polished and scholarly, than either DAVID FROST or DENNIS KEARNEY." If that is so, the public ought to be allowed to judge for themselves from a fair report of the speech, without any alterations or excisions made by the clerical orator subsequently to its delivery, whether the thought is justified by Mr. BACON's words.

When KEARNEY first came East, the full verbatim reports of his speeches in New York given by THE SUN were all that was necessary to exhibit him as the vulgar blatherskite he is. And the Rev. Mr. BACON will find the opportunity of being just as bad, exactly as he is in his month of wrath by the complete and unadorned report of his Norwiche address. What more can he desire?

He is behaving in a very silly way by attempting to make the publication of his remarks an offense against him for which he must be paid in damages.

## The Outlook in Maine.

Two Executive Governments cannot long exist in one State.

Inevitably the exercise of executive power by the one must soon clash with the exercise of executive power by the other.

At the time of the DOBB rebellion in Rhode Island the DOBB Legislature was permitted to peacefully organize in a Furnace, where WELCOME B. SAYLES, as Speaker of the House, made the memorable speech in which he declared: "Seventeen millions of eyes are fixed upon us." Mr. SAYLES was to be discomfited, and instantly killed many years afterward at the head of a regiment he was gallantly leading in our civil war. But he lived because the joke of organizing the DOBB Legislature was confined to the Furnace Building, and was not carried to the State House. When the taking possession of the State property came to be seriously threatened, the DOBB men found they had to encounter cannon, and muskets and bayonets.

There will be bloodshed in Maine if one party or the other does not desist. In our judgment the Fusionists might much better not sacrifice their lives to their folly.